

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated August 27, 2004, claims 1-32 were pending. Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-17 and 22-32 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In this response, claims 18-21 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6-9, and 16-17 have been amended. Specifically, claims 1, 6-9, and 16-17 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. A replacement sheet of the drawings has been submitted. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

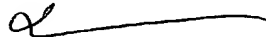
Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

10/27/04



\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Mallie  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026  
(408) 720-8300